

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4527
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5010

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, NL, UR
SUBJ: DUTCH-SOVIET COOPERATION IN NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL AND ECONOMICS MINISTER LUBBERS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED A FAILURE BY THE SOVIETS TO FOLLOW UP ON A PROPOSAL FOR DUTCH-SOVIET COOPERATION IN EXPLORING FOR OIL AND GAS IN THE USSR. ADMISSION CAME IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN INTERROGATORIES BY THREE LABOR PARTY MEMBERS OF SECOND CHAMBER (VAN DER HEK, TER BEEK, AND DE RUITER).

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPLY (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED): QTE DURING DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS WITH MINISTER FOR FON AFFAIRS ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOVIET UNION ON APRIL 23, MR. KOSYGIN TALKED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATING IN FIELD OF EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND GAS IN CONTINENTAL SHELF OF SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT ESPECIALLY OF PROJECTS IN BARENTS SEA, BALTIC AND CASPIAN. MINISTER VAN DER STOEL REACTED POSITIVELY TO PROPOSAL BY MR. KOSYGIN TO SEND UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET DELEGATION TO NETHERLANDS FOR FURTHER TALKS AND HE

POINTED OUT IMMEDIATELY THAT SUBJECT COULD BE RAISED IN DUTCH-SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. DURING FIRST MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE, EARLY IN JUNE IN MOSCOW, THIS WAS DONE BY CHAIRMAN OF THE DUTCH DELEGATION. BUT DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS FROM DUTCH SIDE, RUSSIANS HAVE NOT PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROPOSALS. UNQTE.

3. RESPONSE ALSO STATES THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS PROPOSAL TOO PREMATURE TO HAVE INFORMED NATO OF IT.

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